



NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact:

Ricardo Santiago
Public Information Officer
213-974-3525
RSantiago@da.lacounty.gov
Twitter: @LADAOOffice

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Driver Sentenced for DUI Crash That Killed Freeway Workers

A Wilmington man was sentenced today to 34 years to life in state prison after being convicted of the murders of two construction workers on the 405 Freeway, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Yocio Jonathan Gómez, 25, was found guilty on April 25 of two counts each of second-degree murder, gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated and one count each of DUI causing injury and DUI over .08 percent alcohol causing injury with two or more priors.

At about 3:30 a.m. on July 22, 2012, Gómez was driving a Ford Explorer at 90 mph through a construction zone when he rear-ended another SUV which spun out of control, striking and killing Ramón López and Ricardo Zamora, according to testimony during the trial. A third worker was injured but survived. The Ford Explorer overturned on its roof.

Gómez had a .21 blood alcohol level, according to prosecutors. He had just left a friend's gathering where he ignored party-goers that asked him to spend the night because he had been drinking, the prosecutors added.

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Steven Van Sicklen of the Torrance Branch sentenced Gómez to the maximum term after hearing victim impact statements from the family members of both victims.

The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorneys Christopher Hartman and Daniel Merrick.

The investigation was conducted by the California Highway Patrol.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](http://da.lacounty.gov) prosecuted more than 73,000 felony defendants and 113,000 misdemeanor defendants.